

ENHANCED INFORMATION SUPPORT PLAN TOOL

The Enhanced Information Support Plan (EISP) tool brings disparate information together in a coherent fashion through a data-centric format that is visible, accessible and understandable.



Enhanced analysis through data-centric document production

Information Support Plans (ISPs) provide a means to identify and resolve potential information support implementation issues and risks that, if not properly managed, will limit or restrict the ability of a program to be operationally employed in accordance with requirements. The ISP process is one of discovery, requiring analysis of the program's integrated architecture. This analysis identifies net-centric, interoperability, information supportability, and information sufficiency issues and assesses compliance with DoD information policy and goals.

The Enhanced Information Support Plan (EISP) tool is used to fulfill the requirements for creating an ISP or Tailored Information Support Plan (TISP). It assists ISP developers through a series of predefined fields

that center on the analysis of a program's processes, operational activities performed to complete a mission, and critical information needs—data and information passed between users through supporting systems that enable mission completion. The structured data collection template in the EISP tool ensures only the required essential information is entered and assists in showing compliance with policies and instructions.

While data is entered in the templates, the EISP tool transparently tags data with Extensible Markup Language (XML) so that data is searchable through online search engines and reusable for follow-on data calls.

When the Program Manager (PM) is ready to publish the ISP

document, a predefined style sheet automatically creates a PDF version. This allows the PM to concentrate on providing the most relevant and critical information (content) in the least amount of time without being overwhelmed by document formatting.

The EISP tool evolves the ISP process from "document-centric" to "data-centric." It provides a streamlined process for collecting, reviewing, and reusing data, and is an efficient approach for data collection that builds the mandated document while guiding the analysis of the data as it is entered.

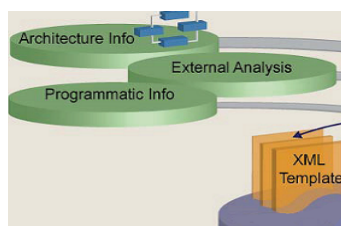




Program Managers experienced up to a 40% reduction in labor cost to accomplish I&S documentation

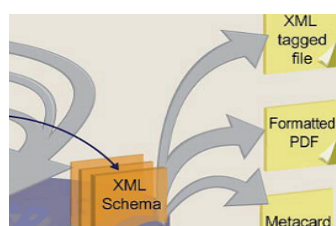
CJCSI 6212.01E, dated 15 December 2008, states, “The use of the Enhanced Information Support Plan (EISP) tool is encouraged to facilitate the development of a standard ISP format and assist programs in risk mitigation.”

Data Gathering



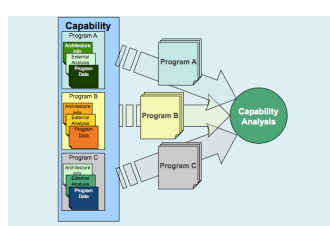
The EISP tool utilizes a standard template to input data, and form and shape the document. The formatted templates, where PMs enter ISP data, provide two different types of functionality: structured input, where the tool prompts users to enter specific required information in designated fields; and adjustable components, where a flexible arrangement allows users to enter additional data and information relevant to their particular program that may not be required by the structured sections, but is necessary for understanding the program. Thus, the template guides the user to provide only the information required by applicable policies and directives. This approach ensures consistent results to help solve key issues and reduce costs.

XML Data Tagging



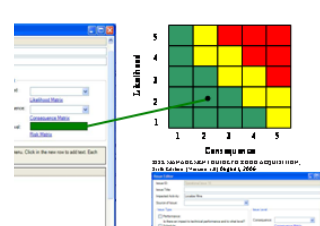
Once data is entered, it is transparently tagged with Extensible Markup Language (XML) so that data can be reused. Users can automatically extract tagged data in a variety of formats, depending on their needs such as analyzing programs within a specific capability area. Reviewers can easily reuse the XML-tagged data in follow-on documents and can extract only the information they are required to analyze. Other users can search, view and access the data and ISP through XML metacards, which are automatically produced using the program's data; pointers to the owner of the document allow third parties to request access, if needed.

Data Analysis



Data elements can be transferred from one EISP to another, allowing developers to reuse information that is applicable to their program. For example, sections of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) EISP will be reused in Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) Abrams and HBCT Bradley. Additionally, tagged data from multiple EISPs can be extracted and combined in a uniform way to facilitate cross-program analysis. The tool also provides multi-dimensional analysis: identifies interoperability and supportability issues, ensures architecture integration, and detects redundancies and shortfalls. Because of the data-centric nature of the EISP tool, ISPs will be easier to maintain, revise, update, and analyze than documents produced manually.

Benefits



Along with easier, faster and more efficient development and production of ISPs, the tool offers a standardized format with less low-value data to reviewers, resulting in fewer administrative comments and a streamlined review process that will facilitate more accurate net-centric, information interoperability, and supportability analysis. Analysis of architectures through the EISP also helps PMs discover information risks and issues and guide the development of mitigation plans. The EISP provides the testing community with better access to ISP data required to support interoperability test plan development or validation. It improves the ability of studies and analysis groups to access architecture data and conduct their analysis of programs' information needs.